



*Semper Fidelis*

*Retirement Ceremony  
for  
Gunnery Sergeant David Lara*



*Marine Forces Reserve  
New Orleans, Louisiana*

*12 June 2015*

# Sequence of Events



*Invocation*

*National Anthem*

*Presentation of Awards*

*Reading of Retirement Documents*

*Remarks*

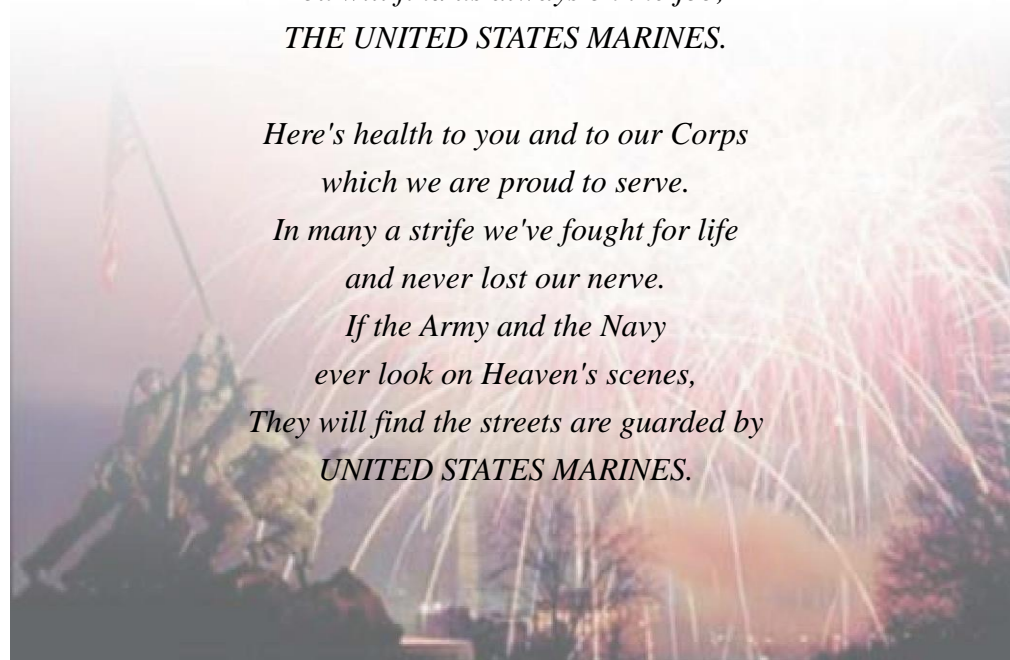
*Marines' Hymn*

## Marines' Hymn

*From the Halls of Montezuma,  
to the shores of Tripoli,  
We fight our country's battles  
in the air, on land and sea.  
First to fight for right and freedom,  
and to keep our honor clean;  
We are proud to claim the title of  
UNITED STATES MARINE.*

*Our flag's unfurled to every breeze  
from dawn to setting sun.  
We've fought in every clime and place  
where we could take a gun.  
In the snow of far off northern lands  
and in sunny tropic scenes,  
You will find us always on the job,  
THE UNITED STATES MARINES.*

*Here's health to you and to our Corps  
which we are proud to serve.  
In many a strife we've fought for life  
and never lost our nerve.  
If the Army and the Navy  
ever look on Heaven's scenes,  
They will find the streets are guarded by  
UNITED STATES MARINES.*



# The Marines Prayer



*Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of thy presence and obedient to thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones and thee without shame or fear. Protect my family.*

*Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performances.*

*Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.*

*If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist, if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.*

*Amen.*

# Famous Quotes



*"...These Marines have the swagger, confidence, and hardness that must have been in Stonewall Jackson's Army of the Shenandoah. They remind me of the Coldstreams at Dunkerque."*

General Douglas MacArthur, U.S. Army

*"Let Every Nation Know Whether It Wishes Us Well Or Ill... That We Shall Pay Any Price, Bear Any Burden, Meet Any Hardship, Support Any Friend, Oppose Any Foe, To Assure The Survival And Success Of LIBERTY"*

John F. Kennedy, President of the United States, 1961

*"I can never again see a United States Marine without experiencing a feeling of reverence."*

General Johnson, U.S. Army

*"The man who will go where his colors will go, who will fight a phantom foe in the jungle and mountain range, without counting, and who will suffer and die in the midst of incredible hardship, without complaint, is still what he has always been, from Imperial Rome to sceptered Britain to Democratic America. He is the stuff of which legions are made. His pride is his colors and his regiment, his training hard and thorough and coldly realistic, to fit him for what he must face, and his obedience is to his orders. As a legionary, he held the gates of civilization for the classical world...he has been called United States Marine."*

LTC T. R. Fehrenbach, US Army "This Kind of War"

*"The deadliest weapon in the world is a Marine and his rifle."*

General Pershing, U.S. Army

*"Some People Spend An Entire Lifetime Wondering If They've Made A Difference To This World. The MARINES Don't Have That Problem."*

Ronald W. Reagan, 40th President of the United States, 1985

*"We Will Not Waver, We Will Not Falter, And We Will Not Fail, Peace And Freedom Will Prevail."*

George W. Bush, 43rd President of the United States, 2003



## Marine Corps Memories



## Gunnery Sergeant David Lara United States Marine Corps



Gunnery Sergeant Lara entered the Marine Corps on 27 June 1995 and completed Basic Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), San Diego, CA on 15 September 1995. He completed Marine Combat Training in November 1995 and was transferred to Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools, Marine Corps Base Camp Johnson, NC where he attended the Personnel Administration Course. Upon completion of this course, then Private First Class Lara was transferred to MCRD Parris Island, SC where he served as a Unit Diary Clerk with the Depot Consolidated Administration Center.

He was promoted to Lance Corporal in 1996 and to the rank of Corporal in 1998. In 1999, Corporal Lara was released from Active Duty and immediately joined the Active Reserves. As a new Active Reserve accession, Corporal Lara reported to Marine Aircraft Group 41, NAS JRB, Fort Worth, TX where he served as the Unit Diary and Service Record Book Clerk.

After 11 September 2001, Corporal Lara was transferred to the Prior Service Recruiting Office, 1st Marine Corps District on Westover ARB, Chicopee, MA where he was assigned as the Administrative and Operations Clerk; he was promoted to Sergeant in 2002. In July 2005 he was recruited and transferred to work with Manpower Information Systems Support Activity 16/17 in Kansas City, MO where he served as a Manpower System Analyst.

Sergeant Lara was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant in 2006 and shortly after was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Camp Fallujah, Iraq with MISSO 11.

In June 2009, Staff Sergeant Lara was transferred to D Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion Knoxville, TN where he was assigned as the Administrative Chief. He was promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant in 2009.

In June of 2013, Gunnery Sergeant Lara was transferred to Marine Forces Reserve G-1, Admin Assist Unit New Orleans, LA assigned as an Admin Assist Unit Analyst.